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*"So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven—"*



St. John's - by - the - Sea

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TAMPA, FLORIDA



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The following sketch of the history of St. John's Church, is necessarily brief. Much of detail has been omitted, the purpose being rather to chronicle outstanding events and dates so far as available information will permit. It is intended as an outline which may serve to refresh the memory of our older members and enlighten new members and our many friends.
—The Author.



PRESENT CHURCH AS IT APPEARS TODAY

Brief History of St. John's

May, 1926



FIFTEEN years ago it was decided to expand the Episcopal Church in Tampa. With an assignment of territory west of North and South Boulevard, twenty-one individuals undertook to organize a mission of St. Andrews, the mother church. From this small beginning came into existence St. John's-by-the-Sea.

St. John's today stands within striking distance of attaining a goal which has been the ambition of scores of members throughout a decade. With its communicant strength of over 275 members, an annual budget of \$10,000, a new church building under construction, its church school, and various organizations functioning, the parish of today is the result of the labor of many faithful people. To these who laid the foundation all credit should be given, and toward them the deepest gratitude is felt. The new comer should realize that the advantages and opportunities offered by the present St. John's were made possible by the sacrifices and labors of those who served the parish in the past.

Our Early Church Builders

Those servants of St. John's and of God's included laymen, laywomen and clergymen. One thinks of the Rev. Wm. DeHart, former rector of St. Andrews, who advised the organizing of a mission of the parish. One recalls the Rev. J. F. Porter, and his work of raising money from church members, from citizens of Tampa, and citizens of other sections of the country, for the erection of a church building. Prominent in the affairs of the parish was the Rev. A. E. Cornish, who was loved by all who knew him—who not only served his church, but also his community through the Associated Charities.

One looks back to the tasks undertaken by Dr. Porter and Mr. Cornish with truest sympathy. Under conditions then existing their accomplishments were relatively as great and important as ours of today. The erection of the present church building, now outgrown, was quite an undertaking in 1912; likewise was the building of a rectory under Mr. Cornish's leadership. Even in the earlier days of the present

rectory, it was no easy task to raise small amounts of money for such necessities as minor repairs to the building.

One's thoughts recall memories of the services rendered from time to time by the Rev. W. C. Richardson, who was ordained in St. John's by Bishop Gray; and the splendid efforts of the Rev. L. I. Insley.

A Memorial

During Mr. Insley's rectorship an electric cross was installed on the tower of the church. Lighted of an evening the cross is visible up and down the Bayshore Drive, forming a fitting memorial to the boys who lost their lives through the sinking of the steamship Tampa, during the war. These lights also remind us of the services rendered by Mr. Insley over a period of several years. It was he, who largely as an individual, secured the contributions which made the purchase of this memorial possible. Acting upon his suggestion, benevolent organizations and individuals have cared for the operating expenses of the cross. One year this privilege was granted to the Tampa Lodge of Elks; one year to the local parish; and last year to the real estate firm of L. W. Lee.

Site is Donated

Many laymen and laywomen were prominent in the affairs of the church during this period of its history. It was Mr. Eugene Holtsinger, who influenced the firm, Swann & Holtsinger Co., to donate for church purposes the corner lot, on which the new building is being erected. The vestry of 1911 and '12 undertook the responsibility of purchasing the adjoining lot. Bishop Gray felt a larger site would be needed—and expressed his hope that some day there may be constructed on this property a great cathedral.

Following are the names of that little congregation of twenty-one members who organized themselves as a mission, and later as a parish, and who, under the leadership of Dr. Porter, succeeded in erecting the present building and having it consecrated by Bishop Gray, on May 26th, 1912, the Festival of Whitsunday:

Irene Richardson Martin, Stephen Hale Rogers, Dr. A. G. Ives, Lemuel R. Woods, Catherine Bitzer, Mary V. Ives, Clara Ellen Woods, Hilton S. Hampton, Susanne T. Hampton, Sumpter L. Lowry, Sr., Willie M. Lowry, Willie Louise Lowry, John D. MacRae, Mary Hill MacRae, William C. Richardson, Marie D. Richardson, Elizabeth Caldwell McIntosh, Sarah Treadwell McIntosh, Ruth VanBuskirk, Frank A. Farwell and Mrs. F. A. Farwell.

There are many individuals whose names would be mentioned in a full account of a history of St. John's parish, but the writing of a brief outline prohibits this.

Realization of Opportunities

The present rector, Rev. Wm. B. Curtis, accepted the call of St. John's, and assumed his duties here in January 1922. He realized that there was a wonderful opportunity before the church—that in time St. John's would become one of those ideal parishes, large enough to be self-supporting, yet small enough to enable each member to know all other members in a splendid fellowship.

During Mr. Curtis' rectorship the congregation has given him loyal support and cooperation, with the result that the membership has increased from an estimated strength of 100 to the present Communicant strength of more than 275. The income has more than doubled; several new church organizations have been perfected; and a debt of \$1200 has been paid. A third lot on South Orleans Avenue has been purchased, and this, together with the property formerly secured, provides the parish a splendid site with 180 feet frontage on South Orleans, and 130 feet on Morrison Avenue.

The Sunday School outgrew its quarters in the church building, and the rectory was converted into a parish house to be used for such purposes. This necessitated the renting of a home for the rector.

A New Church Building

A story of the various steps toward the erection of a new church building should be a separate chapter.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Curtis undertook to start a building fund. This was begun with two contributions of \$5 each, made by Mrs. L. H. Lothridge and Mr. S. L. Lowry, Sr.

In 1924 the real work of establishing a building fund started. The congregation at a special meeting discussed the needs of the parish, and voted that a new church should be the first constructed in a program for three buildings, a church, parish house and rectory. The vestry, acting upon this decision of the parish, appointed a building committee, consisting of Mr. D. M. Partrick, Mr. L. H. McIntire, Mr. S. L. Lowry, Sr., and the Rector. Francis J. Kennard & Sons of Tampa, were selected as architects. This firm later associated in the work with Mr. R. Kennon Perry, of Atlanta, Georgia.



THE NEW CHURCH UNDER WAY

Our Work Outlined

TO COMPLETE AND EQUIP THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING
 TO MOVE AND REMODEL THE PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING
 FOR A PARISH HOUSE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
 TO BUILD A RECTORY ON THE SOUTHERLY PORTION OF
 OUR SITE

How We May Do It

RAISE \$100,000 BY SUBSCRIPTIONS
 PUT OUR HEARTS IN THE WORK AND OUR SHOULDERS TO
 THE WHEEL UNTIL IT IS DONE

This is our task. We are carrying out the ideas of those who handed down to us a heritage of their beloved Church. Therefore, we must so pursue our labors in assuming this responsibility that posterity may turn to the records of our achievements and justly say: "THEY DID NOT FAIL US!"

The privilege is ours. It should be a pleasant task, indeed, to build our church and parish.

BUILDING FUND MOVEMENT

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SOUTH ORLEANS AND MORRISON AVES

PARISH HOUSE
1312 MORRISON AVENUE
PHONE H5-165

RECTORY
909 S. ORLEANS AVENUE
PHONE H6-132

CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN:

S. L. LOWRY, JR.,
CHAIRMAN
MRS. L. H. LOTHBRIDGE,
VICE-CHAIRMAN
REV. WM. B. CURTIS
W. M. BACON
JOHN FITZWATER
H. S. HAMPTON
PEYTON JORDAN
J. D. KINZER
L. H. LOTHBRIDGE
S. L. LOWRY, SR.
O. M. PARTRICK

ST. JOHN'S PARISH

REV. WM. B. CURTIS
RECTOR

TAMPA, FLORIDA

May twenty-one
1926

To the readers:

We have outgrown the old church building of St. John's. It is a structure of the age of yesterday and entirely inadequate for our present needs.

Our City and our State have grown rapidly. Our Church must grow also. A new building promises practically to double our membership. We have begun construction. We must carry it to completion!

It has been decided to finance the new building through an intensive movement. Many of our members have aligned themselves actively in effecting an organization to carry out this plan. They are ready!

Our goal is \$100,000.00!

To build a church is wonderfully worth while. Lessons learned within its walls shall guide the destinies of our children for generations. This is an investment of untold value. To provide a place where men and women may worship God, is truly a definite obligation of Christian life.

With determination in our hearts and a willingness to sacrifice for our Church, we can do that which we have set out to do.

We bespeak your full cooperation! Let's stick to the task with a will! It can be done!

Very sincerely yours,


Campaign Chairman

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Breaking Ground

November 16th, 1924, an anniversary of the Rector's ordination, an out-of-door service was held in the church yard for the purpose of breaking ground for the new building. The Rev. John D. Wing, who later became Bishop-Coadjutor of South Florida, was the principal speaker in this service. The Rector was assisted by the Rev. H. M. Barbour, Rector Emeritus of the Church of the Beloved Disciple of New York City. After Dr. Wing's address the congregation was invited to take an active part in breaking the ground for the new church building. The first shovel full of earth was removed by Mr. George W. Thames, the Senior Warden, with a spade which he has preserved. Following him, every member present assisted in digging the trench for the foundation. With these impressive and significant ceremonies began the actual construction of the new church building.

Laying of Records

A few interested and earnest members of the church undertook to carry on further construction of the building Thanksgiving Day, 1924. While the congregation was at worship, with other Episcopal congregations at a Union Service in the House of Prayer, Mr. George W. Thames, then Senior Warden, Mr. L. H. McIntire, Mr. J. F. Fisher and Mr. D. M. Partrick, met in the church yard, made a mixture of mortar and laid several bricks to form a section of a wall of the new church. They placed within this section a glass bottle, containing different articles commemorating the occasion. This section was later included in the walls and now occupies a position under the northeast corner of the Chancel, forming a part of its foundation.

Work on the building was continued in earnest on April 2nd, 1925, during the senior wardenship of Mr. J. D. Kinser. The foundations having been laid, Mrs. L. R. Woods placing the first brick, the walls were built to the level of the floor. Then work was discontinued temporarily owing to the inability to obtain perfected plans and the absence from the city of Mr. D. M. Partrick, voluntary supervisor of construction.

Just one year after the first work was begun, the task of erecting the building was resumed. At this time there has been expended on the new building and in material on the ground about \$11,000. All labor and material charges have been fully paid. The work now in progress is being done by Mr. W. M. Bacon, Jr., of The Peerless Construction Company, who is also a member of the parish. Mr. D. M. Partrick, the present senior warden, and a member of the building committee, is rendering a most valuable service as trustee of the building fund, as well as supervisor of construction.

Memorials

In the new church there will be opportunities to make gifts in the form of memorials. Mrs. C. A. Root has placed an order with Pilcher's Sons for a splendid pipe organ which will be given as a memorial to members of her family. Mr. L. H. McIntire has authorized the announcement that he will donate as a memorial the Altar and Sanctuary furnishings. Mrs. M. W. Carruth will provide the electric light fixtures. Other memorials and gifts are being mentioned, and opportunities of this nature will be given all people who have subscribed to the building fund.

Gifts and memorials in the present church will be used in the new church, either in the Chancel or in the Chapel. Among these gifts are the Eucharistic Candlesticks, presented by Mrs. T. O. Markee; an altar Cross presented by the late Rev. W. C. Richardson; the Altar Service Book by Mrs. W. E. Dorchester; the Prayer Request Container by Mrs. Perry G. Wall; the Altar Book Rest by Mrs. Howell Lykes; Chair by Mr. Geo. W. Thames in 1919; Processional Cross by Capt. and Mrs. C. D. Thames, "In loving memory of Mary Agnes Thames and Eliza Georgia Kemps"; and altar vases by Mrs. Chumacker.

The Plan Proposed

The plans for the church proper call for an expenditure of about \$75,000 in addition to the amount already expended. The parish building program includes several items:

1. The completion of the church building, and the furnishing of same.
2. The moving of the parish house to the rear of the lot adjoining the church, and the remodeling of same to provide for the needs of the Church School. (It is hoped that in the future the parish may have a more ample parish house, but for current needs, the present church building with some changes will serve very well.)
3. The construction of a rectory on the additional lot on South Orleans Avenue.

For this program the vestry has asked for \$100,000 and has organized a campaign to obtain that amount.

The next chapter of St. John's history will tell the story of this campaign. As we enter upon this great undertaking for Christ's Kingdom, may one and all realize that St. John's "has a name to live"; that we have received from the congregations of former years a wonderful heritage and that ours is the responsibility to carry on—to bring to a full realization the visions of those who made many sacrifices that we might enjoy the fruit of their labors; that it is our privilege now to equip St. John's with material facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations.

IT *SHOULD* BE DONE—

IT *CAN* BE DONE—

IT *WILL* BE DONE!

Then may we say:

IT *HAS BEEN* DONE!



St. John's Parish

Tampa, Florida

FORMER RECTORS

Rev. J. F. Porter, Rev. A. E. Cornish, Rev. L. I. Insley

RECTOR

Rev. Wm. B. Curtis

WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN

D. M. Partrick, Senior Warden, L. H. McIntire, Junior Warden, Marvin Walker, Treasurer, C. H. Martin, Secretary, S. L. Lowry, Sr., H. S. Hampton, A. D. West, J. D. Kinser, J. F. Fisher, Harry H. Root, Peyton T. Jordan

PARISH VISITOR

Mrs. Goree Nelson

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

Peyton T. Jordan Superintendent; A. D. West, Treasurer; Mrs. S. L. Eason and Mrs. B. E. Bushnell, Organists. Teachers: Mrs. A. G. Turner, Mrs. W. L. Pou, Mrs. H. D. Blackburn, Miss Setze, Mrs. J. D. Kinser, Miss Adelbert Overman, Mrs. R. D. Whiteside, Miss Sara Holt, Mrs. B. G. VanDiver, Mrs. B. E. Bushnell, W. M. Bacon, Jr.

MEN'S CLUB

William VanZandt, President; Marvin Walker, Secretary

CHOIR

C. F. Rand, Director; Mrs. J. T. Treasure, Organist;
Mrs. E. J. Overman, Choir Mother

JUNIOR CHOIR

Mrs. W. L. Pou, Director

BUILDING COMMITTEE

D. M. Partrick, L. H. McIntire, S. L. Lowry, Sr.

TRUSTEE OF BUILDING FUND

D. M. Partrick

LITTLE HELPERS

Mrs. W. M. Bacon, Jr., Director

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

Miss Ruth Cosgrove, President; Miss Sara Holt, Director

CHURCH SERVICE LEAGUE

Mrs. E. N. Rodrick, President; Mrs. L. H. Lothridge and Mrs. B. G. VanDiver, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. C. R. Setze, Treasurer; Mrs. W. H. Blake, Secretary; Mrs. Goree Nelson, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Chas. Peebles, Department of Social Service; Mrs. E. C. Sage, United Thank Offering; Mrs. N. M. Bush, Church Periodical Club; Mrs. T. J. Holt, Educational Secretary; Mrs. W. E. Padgett, Chairman Hyde Park Circle; Mrs. L. H. Lothridge, Chairman Palma Ceia Circle.

ST. ELIZABETH'S CIRCLE

Mrs. Frank Winn, President; Mrs. F. C. Cabell, Treasurer;
Miss Margaret Stewart, Secretary

SANCTUARY GUILD

Mrs. Sheldon Stringer, President; Mrs. J. D. Kinser, Treasurer; Mrs. J. E. Martin, Secretary; Mrs. C. R. Marney, Corresponding Secretary and Altar Flowers.

NAZARENE SOCIETY

Mrs. Perry G. Wall, Director



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